

REMARKS

Claims 1-4, 8-15, 17 and 19-23 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 1-4, 8-15, 17 and 19-23 are amended. No new matter is added. Reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested.

Applicants thank Examiners Epshteyn and Pessuto for the courtesies extended to Applicants' representative during the April 12 personal interview. During the interview, the Examiners suggested amending the claims to more positively recite the structural features of the claims. The claims are amended as suggested by the Examiners.

The Office Action rejects claims 1-4, 8, 9, 14, 15 and 17-23 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over U.S. Patent No. 6,126,449 to Burns in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,001,013 to Ota. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 18 has been canceled. Thus, the rejection of claim 18 is moot.

Claim 1 recites, *inter alia*, an image sensor that is capable of concurrently detecting movements of a player in a detection range for a single view, and a movement detection unit that detects a movement of the player in each of a plurality of detection regions from a detection result of the image sensor, the detection range for the single view being divided to form the plurality of detection regions.

The Office Action asserts that col. 9, lines 16-39 of Burns discloses a way to detect a movement of player with a detection range that is divided into a plurality of detection regions, the movement detection section detecting one or more movements of the player in each detection region. However, as discussed during the interview, this section of Burns merely discloses that a device 90 includes multiple video cameras to capture the student from different views performing the training motion on a practice mat 94. See Fig. 5 of Burns. However, in Burns, the detection range of each camera is not divided into a plurality of detection ranges, and there is no specific movement detection unit that detects a movement of

the player in each of the plurality of detection regions. Therefore, Burns does not teach or suggest that a detection range for a single view is divided into the plurality of detection regions or a movement detection unit. Thus, Burns does not teach or suggest these features.

Moreover, claim 1 recites a similarity decision unit that determines a similarity between the movements of the player and the predetermined assigned movements for each detection region based on at least one of a direction, a magnitude and a speed of the movements of the player. As discussed and agreed to during the interview, Burns does not teach or suggest a specific similarity decision unit that determines the similarity.

Ota is merely relied on as allegedly teaching a dance game with a level setting device, and does not cure the deficiency of Burns. Accordingly, claim 1 is patentable over Burns and Ota.

Claims 15, 17 and 22 each recite that a detection range for a single view is divided to form a plurality of detection regions and that a similarity between the movement of the player and a predetermined assigned movement for each detection region is determined based on at least one of a direction, and a magnitude and a speed of the movement of the player. Similar to claim 1, neither Burns nor Ota teach or suggest these features. Thus, claims 15, 17 and 22 are patentable over Burns and Ota.

Claim 20 recites a timing decision unit that decides whether a timing of the concurrent movements of the player corresponds to the predetermined timing for the predetermined assigned movements and decides that the timing of the concurrent movement of the player does not correspond to the predetermined timing for the predetermined assigned movements if the timing of the concurrent movements of the player does not fall within an allowable range of the predetermined timing for the predetermined assigned movements. This feature is shown in Figs. 32 and 33.

As shown in Figs. 32 and 33, each assigned movement has an allowable range (e.g., t1). If each of the concurrent movements by the player does not fall within the allowable range, then the timing decision section decides that the timing of the concurrent movement of the player does not correspond to the predetermined timing for the predetermined assigned movements. See page 125, lines 9-24 of the specification, for example.

The Office Action asserts that Burns teaches at col. 3, lines 60-65 that a timing notice is given to the player by means of showing the correct time, and an instructive command is given to the player based on the timing. The Office Action also asserts that Burns teaches at the same section that a comparison is of the timing between the predetermined movement and the actual movement.

However, as discussed and agreed to during the personal interview, this teaching by Burns is merely a mental step. Burns does not teach or suggest any physical structure that performs the timing detection as recited in claim 20. Therefore, Burns fails to teach or suggest features of the claims.

As discussed above, Ota is merely relied on as allegedly teaching a dance game with a level setting device, and does not cure the deficiency of Burns. Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that claim 20 is patentable over Burns and Ota.

Claim 23 recites a movement vector calculation unit that calculates one or more second movement vectors for the movement of the player based on at least one of a direction, a magnitude and a speed of the movement of the player.

The Office Action does not state that Burns and/or Ota disclose this feature.

Similar to the above discussion, and as discussed and agreed to during the interview, Burns does not teach or suggest any physical unit that performs the calculation of movement vector, as recited in claim 23.

As also discussed in the September 13, 2006 Amendment, Ota does not teach or suggest this feature, and thus fails to cure the deficiency of Burns. Therefore, claim 23 is patentable over Burch and Ota.

Dependent claims 2-4, 8, 9, 14 19 and 21 are allowable at least for their dependence on the allowable base claims, as well as for the additional features they recite. Therefore, withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

The Office Action rejects claims 10-13 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Burns in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,486,001 to Baker. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

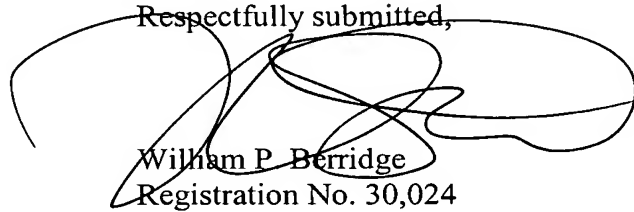
Applicants respectfully submit that this rejection is improper because the Office Action does not apply Ota, which was applied for the rejection of claim 1. Nonetheless, Baker is merely relied upon for teaching a game apparatus where the comparison decision changes the decided comparison according to a predetermined condition detected by the movement of the player. Therefore, Baker does not overcome the deficiencies of Burns and Ota with respect to claim 1. Therefore, claims 10-13 are allowable at least for their dependence on claim 1, as well as for the additional features they recite.

As such, withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of the application are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,

A large, stylized handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'W. P. Berridge', written over the typed name and registration number.

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